

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10093 241411Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

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NIC-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-04 /071 W

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R 241135Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7309

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10093

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK

SUBJ: BOMBINGS IN FRONTIER

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 9832; B. ISLAMABAD 10464#

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM CONSUL IN PESHAWAR

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE HAS  
ARRESTED OVER 350 PERSONS, MOST OF WHOM AFFILIATED WITH  
NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY, FOR INVOLVEMENT IN NWFP BOMBING. NO  
IMPORTANT NAP FIGURES ARRESTED. GOVERNMENT DID NOT PUBLICIZE  
ARRESTS, WHICH WERE JUSTIFIED ON GROUNDS OF NAP AND AFGHAN  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMBINGS. NWFP HOME MINISTER SHERPAO  
OCTOBER 22 ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL TRIBUNAL TO  
TRYI HOSE INVOLVED IN "SUBSERSIVE" OR "TERROIST" ACTIVITIES  
AND ASSERTED 13 PEOPLE HAD CONFESSED THAT NAP RESPONSIBLE  
FOR BOMBINGS. SHERPAO CLAIMED POLICE HAVE UNCOVERED SIGNI-  
FICANT AMOUNT BOMBING MATERIALS OF FOREIGN ORIGIN. NAP  
LEADER WALI KHANBL IN DENYING NAP INVOLVEMENT, CLAIMED  
CONFESSIONS OBTAINED BY TORTURE, THREATENED USE OF FORCE  
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10093 241411Z

IF GOVERNMENT CONTINUED ACT UNCONSTITUTIONALLY. CONSUL

UNABLE OBTAIN HARD INFORMATION ABOUT CAUSE OF EXPLOSIONS BUT PREPARED BELIEVE NAP MAY BE INVOLVED, POSSIBLY WITH AFGHAN COLLABORATION. HOWEVER, MANY FRONTIER RESIDENTS STILL SUSPECT GOVERNMENT HAND OR CRITICIZE ITS HANDLING OF MATTER. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNMENT OF NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP) HAS RESPONDED TO RECENT SPATE OF BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN PESHAWAR AND MARDAN (REFTEL) BY ARRESTING OVER 350 PERSONS IN DISTRICTS OF PESHAWAR, MARDAN, SWAT, DIR AND CHITRAL. ALMOST ALL THOSE ARRESTED ARE REPORTEDLY MEMBERS OR FORMER MEMBERS OF NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY AND/OR ITS OFFICIALLY DEFUNCT AUXILIARY, THE PAKKTOON ZALME. NO IMPORTANT NAP FIGURES WERE CAUGHT UP IN THIS LATEST SWEEP AND OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF DETENNES ARE SUB-DISTRICT, WARD, AND VILLAGE LEVEL LEADERS. GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN NO PUBLICITY TO THESE ARRESTS, AND IN CONVERSATION WITH ME PAST FEW DAYS LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE CONCEDED THAT PROBABLY VERY FEW OF THOSE ARRESTED WERE INVOLVED IN EXPLOSIONS. THEY JUSTIFY ARRESTS ON GROUNDS THAT NAP AS A PARTY, IN COLLABORATION WITH AFGHANS, RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMB BLASTS.

2. IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO EXPLOSIONS, NWFP HOME MSXISTEC SHERYFO ANNOUNCED AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN PESHAWAR OCTOBER 22 THAT LONG-AWAITED SPECIAL TRIBUNAL COMPOSED OF ONE PROVINCIAL HIGH COURT JUSTICE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN FRONTIER, UNDER RECENTLY PROMULGATED ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ORDINANCE, TO TRY CASES OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED SINCE AUGUST 1973 IN "SUBVERSIVE" AND "TERRORIST" ACTIVITIES. IN COURSE PRESS CONFERENCE SHERPAO REPEATED CHARGE THAT NAP RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMB EXPLOSIONS AND ASSERTED THAT GOVERNMENT HAD CONFESSIONS OF 13 PERSONS TO PROVE IT. HE NOTED ALSO THAT IN RECENT RAIDS ON SUBVERSIVE STRONGHOLDS POLICE HAD UNCOVERED SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF FOREIGN-MADE PLASTIC TIME BOMBS, PIN-TIME DETONATORS AND FUSES, HAND GRENADES WITH TIMING DEVICES, DYNAMITE, SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION. REPEATING CHARGE THAT SCHOOLS FOR TRAINING SABOTEURS EXIST IN AFGHANISTAN, SHERPAO ALLEGED THAT FORMER NAP SECRETARY AJMAL KHATTAK WAS HELPING TO MANAGE THESE SCHOOLS AND HAS RECENTLY BEEN RECEIVING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 10093 241411Z

ASSISTANCE IN THIS EFFORT FROM WALI KHAN'S SON-IN-LAW, MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN, WHO RECENTLY TOOK UP RESIDENCE IN AFGHANISTAN.

3. TWO DAYS BEFORE SHERPAO'S PRESS CONFERENCE, WALI KHAN GAVE EID HOLIDAY SPEECH TO PARTY FAITHFUL IN PESHAWAR PARK. DURING HIS TYPICAL HARD-HITTING SPEECH, WALI DENIED NAP INVOLVEMENT IN BOMB EXPLOSIONS AND CLAIMED THAT GOVERNMENT

WAS EXTRACTING CONFESSIONS FROM DETENUES BY USE OF TORTURE, MAKING IT UNLIKELY THAT EVIDENCE OBTAINED WOULD STAND UP IN REGULAR COURT OF LAW. WALI AGAIN HELD OUT THREAT THAT IF GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO ACT UNCONSTITUTIONALLY, NAP WOULD BE COMPELLED TO USE FORCE TO OBTAIN ITS RIGHTS.

4. COMMENT: CONSULATE HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL TO DATE IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN HARD INFORMATION ABOUT CAUSE OF EXPLOSIONS. HOWEVER, RECALLING ADMISSION OF NAP SENATOR ZAHURAL HMQ LAST DECEMBER (REFTEL B.) THAT MEMBERS HIS PARTY WERE INVOLVED AT THAT TIME IN CUTTING POWER LINES AND SETTING OFF NUMEROUS BOMBS, I PREPARED BELIEVE NAP IS DOING SAME THING NOW. BUT I AM ALSO AWARE THAT FRONTIER NAP IS VERY POORLY ORGANIZED PARTY (IN EFFECT IT OPERATES OUT OF WALI KHAN'S POCKET) AND LEADERS WOULD APPEAR TO BE INCAPABLE OF PLANNING AND EXECUTING SERIES OF SABOTAGE ACTS OVER PERIOD OF MANY MONTHS. IT MAY BE, THEREFORE, THAT AFGHANS AND NAP ARE COLLABORATING IN THIS ENDEAVOR, AS GOVERNMENT CLAIMS.

5. WHATEVER ACTUAL FACTS ARE, IT IS QUITE APPARENT THAT MANY PERSONS IN FRONTIER CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT ITSELF IS PLANTING BOMBS. IN SUPPORT OF THIS THEORY, CONSULATE'S CONTACTS POINT OUT THAT IF GOVERNMENT HAD GOOD CASE AGAINST NAP, IT SHOULD NOT FEEL COMPELLED TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COURT TO TRY ACCUSED INSTEAD OF HAVING CASES DECIDED IN REGULAR COURTS. FEW PERSONS I HAVE TALKED WITH BELIEVE THAT ALLEGED CULPRITS WILL RECEIVE FAIR TRIALS BEFORE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED SPECIAL TRIBUNAL. CONSULATE HAS ALSO RECENTLY RECEIVED REPORTS FROM FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS IN PESHAWAR ARE DISSATISFIED WITH WAY INVESTIGATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED AND BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT VICTIMIZING NAP THAN IN FINDING REAL CULPRITS. BYROADE  
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PAGE 04 ISLAMA 10093 241411Z

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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